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New Year, new goals

Read Gail Stelter's Writing on the Senior Side on page 2.

Traditions

Read about the history of Canadian Christmases in this week's editorial on page 6.

Stanhope Firefighter Benjamin Datti helps Arwen Watson, 3, into the driver's seat of a fire truck during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children's Christmas party on Dec. 16. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *County Life*

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Writing on the Senior Side

Resolutions, bucket lists, and vision boards

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

Multiple Choice question: Do you prefer,
a) New Year's Resolutions
b) Bucket Lists
c) Vision Boards
d) None of the Above

Another new year already? Why is my senior life speeding by? I am not a fan of January and whoever decided we should make New Year's resolutions.

We can thank the Babylonians who started this over 4000 years ago. Not only did they hold celebrations in honour of the new year, they made promises to the Gods to pay their debts, and return any objects they had borrowed. Of all the resolutions that are made, the Babylonians just may have gotten it right.

In the Middle Ages, medieval knights pledged their allegiance and renewed their vows to chivalry and knightly values. They took the "Vow of the Peacock" where they placed their hands on a live or roasted peacock. I like this one. I will make New Year's resolutions as soon as I find a peacock.

It seems that only nine per cent of people who make resolutions keep them. Twenty three per cent quit by the end of the first week and 43 per cent quit by the end of January (fisher.osu.edu).

Okay, just for giggles, I will see what the all-knowing internet has to say about seniors and New Year's Resolutions. Oh shoot, this is good stuff. I can do some of these: (stellarliving.com).

1. Eat more nutritious foods - That's doable.
2. Move joyfully - Yes, dancing my way through life!
3. Learn something new - Nope, I can barely fit in what I am doing now. Well, I am planning to take another course.
4. Make new friends or spend more time with old ones - This makes me feel sad. I need to work on this.
5. Organize your life - If this means cleaning out my bedroom storage cupboard, at best, it's a long shot.
6. Sleep better - I wish!
7. Stay creative - Other than writing, this is not happening.
8. Preserve your life story - Onward I go.
9. Learn new technology "Gramma, you don't know how to take 'live' off your photos. Here I'll show you."
10. Be more authentic - Now is the time to be truly honest with all those around you. Be your most authentic self - Another hard one. I'll try… maybe.

Bucket Lists. Well, if "kick the bucket" is death, then a bucket list is what you want to do before you die. What are the things you want to accomplish in your life that you haven't done yet? What do you want to experience before it is too late; before you die? I wouldn't say I like bucket lists. It's just not me to write a list about doing stuff before I die. I will just do my stuff without the dying part or the list part. This would include being authentic, finishing a memoir; writing a fiction short story, and writing a novel. Publishing! That's it. Oh wait, one more thing. Have fun, and don't miss any opportunities to sing, dance and grab those special times and moments with the ones I love. No bucket list for me.

Vision Boards. A vision board is a collection of images or objects arranged in such as way that you create a visual reminder of your goals. It's a "craft-tuned liferoad map… to showcase your goals through pictures, phrases and artistic expressions," (seniorshelpingseniors.com).

The usual way to create a board is to use craft items, magazine clippings and other miscellaneous items. Inherent in a vision board is the belief, supported by research, that "mindsets drive behaviours that drive outcomes," (Dr. Erin Eatough). Whenever you need to make a decision about something that is happening or about to happen in your life, your board is there to remind you of what matters.

I made a vision board of sorts when I first retired. I am not creative, so I mostly used coloured markers and words on regular-size photocopy paper. I remember some of the things it had on it. I will go to Ireland and England, build meaningful relationships with children and grandchildren, pay off a mortgage and, of course, the perennial, lose weight. I put it away somewhere and forgot about it.

Vision boards can be organized into categories such as wealth, career, health, learning, and family. You decide. Vision boards can be limited to the next five years, your planned travels or whatever you wish to highlight. You can put anything on it that inspires and motivates you. The key is to always remember that the purpose of your vision board is action: bring it to life! If you believe that creating a vision board will lead to the actions necessary to fulfill your vision, it will probably do so. Neuroscientists tell us that looking at images on a vision board primes the brain to grasp opportunities that may otherwise go unnoticed. That's because the brain has a process called "value-tagging" which imprints important things on your subconscious and filters out unnecessary information (themotivationclinic.co.uk).

This resonates with me, so I am seriously considering creating a vision board just for my writing. I will use it to silence my screaming inner critic and give me that extra visual motivation to achieve. Oh yes, I will even display it and revisit it after it is done. But… there is also a chance I won't do any of this. I'll let you know.

What do New Year's resolutions, bucket lists and vision boards have in common? While they all provide opportunities to reflect on what matters most and help us identify important milestones and experiences we want to have, it seems that resolutions and bucket lists are weak compared to the vision board. Of course, you are the best person to decide if one or any of them might work for you. Regardless, the year ahead is about your choices. There will always be some events over which we have no control. Barring these, you can make choices to create your best vision for your well-being and quality of life.

Happy New Year!

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Dream

Sky, leaking light, flooding the field of Snow,
where I used to go to watch a palomino, gallop through the grass,
its mane, wild as the Wind that whirls through Air, the only horse out there,
as I stood and watched from a distance, its freedom, corralled by a wooden fence, that I leaned against,
waiting to see if the palomino would trot over towards me, and accept the offering I cradled in my palm,
the fragrance of apple skin perfuming Air.
I inhaled whiffs of its wildness, watching it streak across the field, this ghost of a horse that gallops through my dreams,
whenever I feel the yoke of worry choking my Breath,
craving the freedom of that green field, on days when Sky blared blue,
and fingers of breeze grazed my cheeks, the murmur of the creek, that meandered alongside the field,
as I watched and listened, sometimes for a while, to water hiccup over rocks,
the silence of the palomino, as it galloped through the grass, too far to hear its hooves, trample the earth,
Wind, weave through its mane, the panting of its Breath as it grew hot or tired, beneath the blaze of Sun,
my thoughts running circles in my mind, sometimes,
I'd try to outrun them and end up here, leaning against the rotting fence post,
letting the solitude of the palomino and the grace of its gallop,
still the flurry of thoughts,
blinding me to the beauty unfurling all around me.
I stand here, now, curling into my coat, huddled against the Wind, cowering from the cold, that sears my bones,
gazing out at the barren field, blanketed in Snow, light streaming down from afternoon Sky,
sunbeams piercing layers of cloud, the kind that slide straight into my soul,
quiet, so loud, I don't need to listen very hard,
to hear the palomino's Breath, as it took the apple from my palm that day,
letting me stroke the silk of its coat, before it trotted away,
swishing its tail, as I watched,
the borders of its freedom, chosen by those who erected the fence, while I stood on the other side,
not realizing, that day, as I ambled away, that my choices are boundless as Sky, sprawling above me,
rivulets of blue, trickling through banks of clouds, quiet, so loud, I stop and listen to the beating of my own Heart,
buried beneath layers of sweater and flesh, and maybe if I listen long enough, the answer will come,
pure as a palomino galloping through Snow, sunbeams streaming through the window,
awakening me from my dream.

Sylvie Kalenda

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire *
Foodland *
Minden Valumart *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Holiday update from Point in Time

While the physical offices of Point in Time and the Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub will be closed from Monday, Dec. 25 to Friday, Jan. 5, Point in Time workers will be available for individuals with urgent needs or requiring crisis supports during this time period.

Youth and families who have urgent needs or require crisis supports between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. can call Point in Time at 705-457-5345 and press 8 to speak with a crisis worker. If you have urgent needs or require crisis supports outside of these hours or on Jan. 1, please call or text Community Crisis Response Service at 1-855-310-COPE (2673.) You will be connected with a trained CRISIS response worker who will review your immediate needs and direct you to the appropriate supports in your area.

If you need immediate holiday support that is not crisis related, please call 75-457-5345 and press 3 to speak with an office team member. Our physical offices will re-open on Monday, Jan. 8.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca
www.mindentimes.ca

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo will be closed until March
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Dec. 28 - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 29- Open 2 to 9 p.m.
Dec. 30 – Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat Draw 3 p.m. President's Levy 3 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 31 - Closed
Jan. 1 - Closed - Happy New Year
January 2nd – Closed - Executive to Executive Meeting 7 p.m.
Jan. 3 – Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.
Jan. 4 - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
President's Levy – Dec. 30 3 to 6 p.m. -Drop In-Refreshments
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Tree of Warth Program. The gifts were presented to Cardiff and Wilberforce Elementary Schools on Dec. 21 and were much appreciated by staff and will keep our children warm throughout winter.
If you are planning an event our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Super Cash Calendar Draws

When: Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
The Haliburton Lions Club super cash calendar draws will take place on the second Monday of every month from January until October. Three tickets pulled per night. First ticket winner receives $100, second ticket $200, and third ticket $500. Winners will be posted every month on www.haliburtonlions.com. Public is welcome to attend the draws at the Lions meetings in person.

Trappers Workshop

When: Sunday Jan. 14, 9 a.m.to 3 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce
Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes throughout the day! Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local foodbank.. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further info please contact Ted at 705-448-2877.

Kinsley Porzuczek, 7, reacts during The BarryO Kidshow.

Adam Douglas enjoys some cake while his mom, Amanda, looks on.

Smiles with Santa

Oliver Simon and his sister, Vivian, sit on Santa's knee during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children's Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 16. /ADAM FRISK special to *County Life*

Stanhope firefighter Kevin Alcock poses for a photo with his son and Santa.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Christmas in Canada

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA
County Life Staff

CANADA IS a large and diverse country, and as a result, Christmas traditions vary across the nation.

We know what Christmas looks like in the Highlands, but what about our maritime provinces, French-Canadians, or the northern territories?

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there is a unique tradition called Mummering. In small coastal communities, groups of friends and family members dress up in masked costumes and go door to door visiting their neighbors. Upon their arrival, the host asks the mummers questions about themselves while they remain in disguise. Once the mummer's identity is revealed, the host invites them inside and offers them food and drinks.

While the custom has been banned in some parts of the province, especially larger towns, St. John's still hosts the Mummers Festival and Mummers Parade annually.

A longstanding tradition in Nova Scotia is to send a giant Christmas tree to the City of Boston as a gesture of gratitude for their assistance following the devastating Halifax Explosion in 1917. The province dedicates an entire year to finding the perfect tree, which is nominated by citizens and then selected by a committee. The ideal tree is typically a red or white spruce or balsam fir, standing 40 to 50 feet tall.

In Quebec, there is a French-Canadian tradition of sharing a cake on Jan. 6 to celebrate La Fête du Roi, King's Day. This cake contains a hidden bean, and the person who finds the bean in their slice is crowned the king or queen for the day.

Northern Indigenous traditions have long celebrated the winter solstice, usually around Dec. 21, predating the Christianized Christmas that was introduced to Canada. These festivities involve gift-giving and feasts between neighboring regions, to provide support during the harsh winter months and celebrate the beginning of longer days.

In addition to various long-standing Christmas traditions across Canadian provinces, many newcomers to Canada still follow customs associated with their countries of origin.

Some families choose to adopt Canadian traditions along with their own cultural traditions, creating a beautiful mosaic of customs and new ways to celebrate the holidays.

My family, for example, is Italian-British-Canadian.

Many Italian traditions are rooted in the Catholic Church, which prohibits the consumption of meat on Christmas Eve. Other cultures that follow a similar tradition include Poland, Ukraine, and Portugal.

Instead of turkey dinner on Christmas Eve, my family cooks a fish feast – Zuppa di Pesce – essentially a fish stew, with seafood, like clams, mussels, squid, shrimp, and cod that's simmered in a tomato, white wine, and fennel broth.

Then, in keeping with Canadian tradition, we'll have turkey on Christmas Day.

Other cultures or religious communities, like those of Jewish or African descent, sometimes choose to celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, as their family grows and adapts.

Canada's Christmas traditions showcase the beautiful tapestry of diversity that each family and community adds their unique touch to. As families and communities grow, customs evolve, reflecting the changing dynamics and influences.

It's wonderful to witness how these traditions intertwine, creating a vibrant mixture of celebrations across the country.

Although the significance of Christmas may differ from one person to another, it typically revolves around love, empathy, and spreading happiness. It is a special time to appreciate and cherish our loved ones, display kindness to others, and meditate on the values that unite us.

Understanding and embracing the various ways in which people celebrate the holiday season can help in creating an inclusive community, promoting a sense of togetherness, and providing an opportunity to spread kindness during this festive season.

Top 10 clues that your elf on a shelf has gone sentient

NOW THAT Artificial Intelligence is a thing, I don't think it is too much of a leap to wonder exactly when our elf on a shelf units will gain sentience. I don't have the answer to that question, but I do think there are some signs that we should be watching for. With that in mind, here are the top 10 clues your elf on a shelf is now sentient.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. On Boxing Day, you found it in the morning under a blanket of newspapers beside an empty bottle of bourbon.
2. It sent you an invoice and charged HST.
3. It sits where it darn well pleases.
4. Pretty sure it used toilet in kid's Barbie Dreamhouse.
5. Now an independent contractor working with Santa.
6. Rumoured to be dating Taylor Swift.
7. Exchanged its elf cap for a green fedora.
8. Just sent you a post card from Costa Rica.
9. Watched Lord of the Rings. Now has the hots for Galadriel.
10. Wants to work remotely.

Observations from a chesterfield

All poor me could manage was some instant soup for throat
Chest stayed loaded - Christmas flu - yet still these rhymes I wrote
Motivated by the views I got through window bright
Snowflakes size of dimes weren't simply dropping, but in flight

Up towards the misty streaks of white and blue they'd surge
Sideways next, then down, then back, as if with clouds they'd merge
With them flying also, noting feeders had new fills -
Yellows, greys and purples wanting millet in their bills

Tiniest of winter birds, the ones designed for cold
Specialized anatomy keeps frigid death on hold
Genius of nature with intent for safest life
Feathered little bodies know that wind cuts like a knife

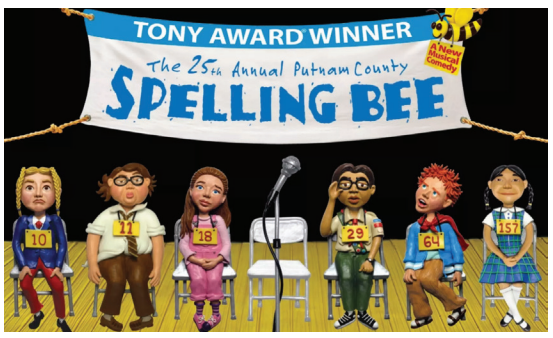
I, in Tampa t-shirt on the other side of pane
Cranky since my pesky cough refused today to wane
Food for me is giant-steps from couch to fridge or shelves
Wild things, though, won't ever feel too sorry for themselves

Only if a blue jay wrecks good manners with the seed
Argues for the peanuts with its pecking order greed
Some concerns arise around the meeker getting fed
Certainly the young ones who wait nervously instead

All was calm today - yippee! - no bully-bird appeared
Just my sudden loud ACHOO!! changed peacefulness to weird
Crass enough to shock my hungry friends back to the trees
Made me wonder randomly if finches also sneeze

By Deborah J Reed

July 2nd to July 11th



Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius.

Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.

July 15th to July 23rd

The Miracle Worker
by William Gibson

Twelve-year-old Helen Keller lived in a prison of silence and darkness. Deaf, blind, and mute from an illness as a baby, with no way to express herself or comprehend those around her, she flew into primal rages against anyone who tried to help her, fighting tooth and nail with a strength born of furious desperation.

Then Annie Sullivan came. Half-blind herself, but possessing an almost fanatical determination, she would begin a frightening and incredibly moving struggle to tame the wild girl no one could reach…Opens July 15 for eight performances including three matinees.

July 24th to July 26th

Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present ***The Good Lovelies***, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

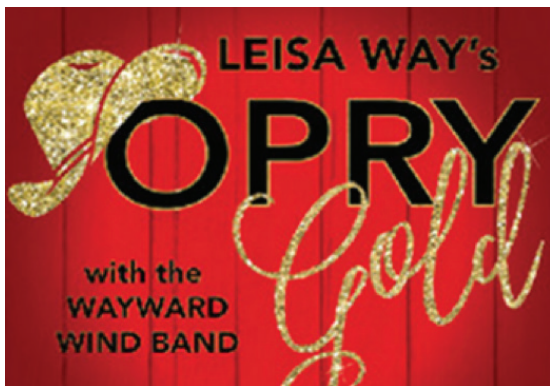
The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, Oh My, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest We Will Never Be The Same in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.

July 28th to August 2nd

Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, ***The Birds and the Bees*** is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

Six performances from July 28 to August 2.
*(**The Birds & The Bees** contains mature content and discussions of sex.)*

August 4th to August 8th



Back by popular demand, Highland Summer Festival presents Leisa Way ands her Wayward Wind Band with another outstanding concert, ***Opry Gold***. To share the Grand Ol' Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music.

Leisa Way and her phenomenally talented band have brought audiences many great shows, and this latest concert raises the roof with the hottest country songs from the last few decades. Sing-a-long to Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Zac Brown Band, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Kenny Chesney, Gretchen Wilson, George Strait, Roger Miller, Flatt & Scruggs, Ricky Scaggs, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Alan Jackson, and more!

Five performances starting August 4 to August 8.

Purchase your Season Passes online at:
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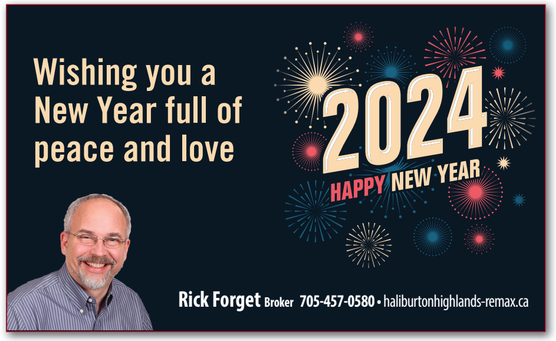

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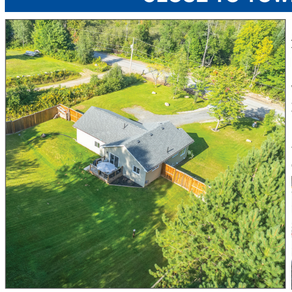

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Discovering the rhythm

The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre's community drum circle gathered on Thursday, Dec. 14, for their second last session before the New Year. The drum circle is an event where individuals from various backgrounds can come together to explore different rhythms and express their creativity. It offers a space for members of the community to connect with each other, building a sense of belonging through the universal language of rhythm. Participants are encouraged to let go of their worries and immerse themselves in the rhythmic beats of the drums. As the pulsating sounds fill the air, stress and tension melt away, leaving behind a profound sense of relaxation and tranquility.

All participants are welcome to join. Drums and other percussion instruments are provided. The community drum circle has been gathering at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre every Thursday for the past fifteen years, thanks to the sponsorship of Rails End and the dedication of Laurie Jones. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A Blue Jay perches on a snowy branch. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A Chickadee gets ready to take flight. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A marsh after snowfall. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

Home Game

VS

Patriots JR"A"

Friday, Dec. 29 7 p.m.

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Muskies

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January 2, 3, 4, 5, 7: 11:00am - 12:20pm

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August 15th, 17th | 7:30pm | NLPAP

POSTPONED FROM 2023

Experience this powerful & moving work combining opera with traditional Indigenous singers and instrumentalists, created for HOS by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour. Mishabooz's Realm takes us on a journey from an Indigenous perspective through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately Hope for the Future.

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IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA)

August 22nd, 24th, 26th | 7:30pm | NLPAP

August 25th | 2:00 pm | NLPAP, Haliburton

From Bugs Bunny cartoons to movie soundtracks, 'The Barber of Seville' by Rossini is one of the most popular and recognizable Italian comic operas. Join us for the hilarious antics as Figaro helps Almaviva outwit the doddering and conniving Bartolo for the hand of the beautiful Rosina. Fun for all ages! (In Italian with English Surtitles)

CONCERTS

OPERA TO BROADWAY
August 1st | 7:30pm

POP GOES THE OPERA
August 7th | 7:30pm

CELEBRATIONS!
August 10th | 7:30pm

HOMECOMING: HOS ALUMNI CONCERT
August 19th | 7:30pm

All Concerts: St. George's Anglican Church

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
July 29th | 7:30pm
Abbey Gardens Performance Tent

MUSIC ON THE WATER
August 3rd | 7:30pm
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CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
August 14th | 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican

POP-UP PERFORMANCE TBA
August 16th | 7:30pm
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LOOK INSIDE

Warm Greetings

Our annual supplement brings Christmas cheer and good wishes to you from local businesses, as well as children's stories

See special section

Changing times

Lois Warburton to retire after 30 years of growth, change in county administration

See page 14

In Quotes

"If it comes to a vote on a tender, my vote will be no."
Clayton Cameron is one of three councillors who opposes a new MH office

See page 5

Minden Hills flips switch on evening meetings

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

In a lengthy debate that led to accusations of dirty politics but finally ended in compromise, Minden Hills Township's new council decided to move one of its two monthly meetings to the evening.

Newly elected councillor Clayton Cameron asked council to do "anything it can" to help accommodate his work schedule. Cameron is the director of Public Works for the township of Severn.

During the election, Cameron said he would not be able to make all the meetings if council did not change its meetings from the daytime to the evening.

Moving to evening meetings would not be a big change, he said then, because the public would be better served and the change wouldn't cost the township anything. Even though township staff would be required to work the evenings, Cameron said the staff are paid on a salary and not wages, and therefore wouldn't be paid extra.

However, Cameron's optimism seemed greatly misplaced on

see COMPROMISE *page 4*

Sheryl Loucks/TIMES

Presents: Kelsey Turner was one of the excited youngsters who received a present from Santa at Stanhope's Christmas party on Saturday

Gallery given suitcase full of treasures

Andre Lapine drawings, artifacts join collection of artist's paintings

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

In the refined world of art collecting, where a great deal of time is spent in the sedate, cerebral processes of appraisal and appreciation, the sudden appearance of a rare, unknown collection of art comes like a shot of adrenalin, delivered by some beneficent deity and sending art lovers into fits of rapture.

By its appearance, the well-travelled burgundy suitcase of the painter André Lapine, the edges of its carboard frame worn but still solid, doesn't promise so much.

For the past 50 years, however, that suitcase held within it an assortment of sketches, photographs and documents dating from the 1920s, 30s and 40s that are together worth about half the value of the largest collection of Lapine's works, 50 paintings proudly owned by Minden's Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

This most recent addition to the gallery alone would elevate it into a higher level in the art world, said gallery administrator Laurie Carmount: "It is a hugely

see COMPROMISE *page 4*

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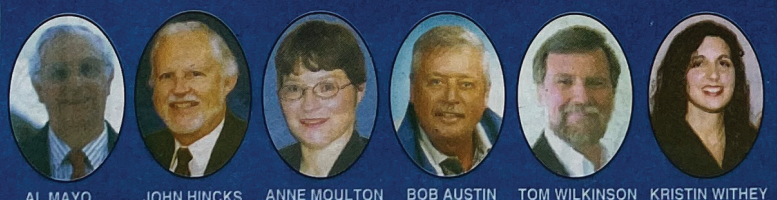

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We hope this holiday season brings you moments of joy, reflection, and quality time with loved ones.

From our home to yours, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

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